

30 Sep 99

The POPPE Case: Terms of Employment

On 17 May, when subject was turned over to us, Offie stated that he would be employed indefinitely at \$500 per month. POPPE was interested in a permanent job, and very early sought permission to answer letters from the University of Washington and other US universities. This was refused because POPPE, after arriving under his own name and with unclassified Army orders which he distributed to various Government agencies and the Red Cross at Westover Field, had been placed under cover and under a pseudonym.

On 26 May, Offie took POPPE to dinner at the home of William Bullitt and there told him that he would remain under cover and at work in Washington for a period of six months. On 31 May, OPC informed us POPPE would be given a contract to sign. On 13 June, OPC informed us the plans for the contract were definite. On 15 June, OPC requested us to find POPPE permanent quarters. POPPE declined to move until Offie clarified his situation. On 22 June, POPPE wrote Offie, requesting such clarification and also permission to arrange to go to Seattle in September. On 24 June, after repeated requests, we were given permission by OPC to break POPPE's cover and establish him under his own name. POPPE then agreed to postpone his move to Seattle if necessary, since he was now in a position to correspond with the university authorities there. However, he asked for a definite contract as he was still without knowledge of his status here.

Shortly after [] took over part of the POPPE case from [] we were informed that Offie had revised his opinion of POPPE and thought he had a low potential. We were then told that there would be no contract, and requested to send POPPE on his way to Seattle by 1 August. We replied that there was a continuing interest, particularly on the part of State personnel who had been brought into the case at OPC request, which could not be satisfied before late August. We were then told to ship him as soon as it appeared feasible and advisable.

Early in September, we were informed by POPPE himself that he had been told, apparently by direct OPC contact, that he would not be going to Seattle for the fall term. This was upsetting to him and again made him uncertain whom he was dealing with and in whose hands his affairs rested. This boiled along until the [] visit to POPPE, followed by [] conference with Kirkpatrick, which resulted in the decision that POPPE could go to Seattle as scheduled. POPPE entrained on 17 September, and [] was given full background information on the case. In financial settlement, [] delivered final payment through 17 September and collected a receipt worded to show he had been paid in full under the contract. So far as we know, there never was any contract, but apparently OPC either believes they have one on file or actually do have, having obtained it through some other channel than ourselves.

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